

March 26, 1916, seven fresh eggs collected from nest of large twigs, lined with cotton, feathers and other soft material, placed in a bucket lying on a shelf in an old blacksmith shop. The nest was completed over 10 days before first egg was laid. Bird was removed from nest by hand so identification is certain.

190. **Troglodytes aëdon parkmani.** WESTERN HOUSE WREN.— A specimen taken February 5, 1916, on Pine Creek near Prattville, and now in the museum of the State Department of Archives and History, was identified by Dr. H. C. Oberholser as this subspecies. Other House Wrens were seen January 14, 1915, and January 8 and October 23, 1916, near Autaugaville.

191. **Hylocichla fuscescens fuscescens.** VEERY.— September 17 and 18, 1915, thirty-five or forty were seen on northern edge of Bear Swamp and two specimens were taken. Others seen October 17 and 22.

ONTARIO BIRD NOTES.

BY HOYES LLOYD.

As most of the notes mentioned below are records of occurrence or breeding of birds near Toronto, it may be of interest to consult a very excellent description of the surrounding country and general topography given by Mr. J. H. Fleming in his 'Birds of Toronto, Ontario,' ('The Auk,' Vol. XXIII).

The following notes are largely the result of personal observations made during ornithological jaunts and collecting work during the past fifteen years. Most of the work has been done at Toronto, Ontario.

I am sincerely indebted to Dr. Jonathan Dwight and Mr. J. H. Fleming for assistance in comparing and describing specimens.

Limosa hæmastica. HUDSONIAN GODWIT.— This species is rare in Ontario and this record may be of interest.

On October 18, 1916, Mr. H. Townson of Toronto shot a specimen at Conroy's Marsh, Carlow Township, Hastings County, Ontario. Mr. A. S. Goss, who was on a hunting trip with Mr. Townson, obtained this speci-

men and gave it to me in the flesh. I found it to be a female in the immature plumage and it is now in my collection, No. 1491.

Corvus corax principalis. NORTHERN RAVEN.— On one of the many lovely lakes in the Temagami Forest Reserve, District of Nipissing, Ontario, a rocky promontory rises rather abruptly from the water level to a height of perhaps one hundred and fifty feet.

As I was paddling past the foot of this cliff on June 9, 1909, a raven flew from the face of the cliff and quickly disappeared in the forest, its flapping and sailing flight identifying it immediately, and, as it flew, it uttered a harsh, guttural croak.

I soon noticed its nest, about fifteen feet from the top of the cliff. It appeared large and coarsely built of sticks, but neatly fastened in a small crevice of the rocks.

Wishing to photograph the nest, I strapped my camera to my waist and was soon climbing over the tumbled rock talis at the foot of the cliff. As I went up, the footing became less secure until finally I was clutching at lichen-covered rocks to cling to the narrow ledges. Finally, an overhanging wall made further progress impossible and I was still far from the nest. So I came down and went around to the top of the cliff, through the woods.

The stone at the top of the cliff was very crumbly, but careful crawling brought me to the edge, within ten or fifteen feet of the raven's nest, where I could look into it easily. At close range it was seen to be carefully built, chiefly of large, dead sticks, and well fitted into the crevice of the cliff. It was warmly lined with willow catkins. Three downy, open-mouthed young ones were crowding each other, in expectation of their next meal, and I secured a good picture of them before descending.

The action of the old birds was always to fly to a distant tree-top to watch me.

By July 14, the young birds were able to fly clumsily from one ledge of the cliff to the next and, later, I saw them taking noisy lessons in woodcraft in the tree-tops of the pine forest near their rocky home.

The Ojibway Indians knew this cliff as Crow Rock and said that the birds had always nested there.

Other families of young and old ravens were seen in the vicinity of similar cliffs on at least two other lakes.

The Raven has long been assumed to nest in Northern Ontario. In this connection, C. W. Nash, in his 'Manual of Vertebrates of Ontario' says "probably breeds in the remote forests towards James Bay." Apparently this is the first published breeding record from Ontario's vast hinterland.

Spinus pinus. PINE SISKIN.— On April 13, 1915, in the early morning, while walking up the ravine of a small creek which flows into the Don River, I noticed a Pine Siskin fly into the top of a small cedar tree. Careful scrutiny of the tree made me believe that there must be a nest, although it could not be seen definitely from the ground. Upon climbing the tree, which was twenty-five to thirty feet high, the nest was found very near

the top and attached to the smaller branches, a short distance out from the main stem of the tree. It was a compact cup, almost spherical below, and was built with twigs as a foundation and the upper part and lining were made of plant fibre. On this date it contained two newly hatched birds and one bird just emerging from the shell. The ground color of this egg was bluish and it was spotted and streaked with dark brown.

I returned to the nesting site on April 23 and the nest had disappeared; perhaps the work of crows, which were numerous. I thought it might have blown down, but could find no trace of it either in the tree or on the ground beneath it.

This nest was located about one mile north of the section of the city known as East Toronto.

On May 20 of the same year, and about a quarter of a mile from the site of this nest, I watched an old Siskin feeding a fully fledged young bird. Their combined notes were something like *whéú-ee*, *whéc-you*, *whéc-you*, *tuck*, *tuck*, *whéu-ee*, the whole often repeated.

Siskins are reported to have bred in Wellington County, Ontario, in April and May, 1905 (Auk, XXII, 1905, 415), but I believe this is the first nest discovered in this part of the province. As Siskins were seen in this neighborhood quite regularly, from January 28 until May 21, it is probable that several pairs were nesting.

Melospiza melodia melodia. SONG SPARROW.—There is, in my collection, No. 1265, a female Song Sparrow which shows partial albinism. I collected this specimen near Toronto on May 17, 1916. In general appearance it resembles closely a specimen of the Desert Song Sparrow, *Melospiza melodia fallax*, in Mr. J. H. Fleming's collection, with which it was compared. It differs in having the markings uniformly lighter, in having practically white tail-feathers and primaries and in having the beak and feet very light in color.

Song Sparrows were found at Toronto during the present winter, 1916-17.

On December 30, 1916, I found a small flock of half a dozen individuals in the rushes on Ashbridge's Marsh. On January 1, 1917, I found another in a marsh at West Hill, near Toronto.

Piranga erythromelas. SCARLET Tanager.—In the Don Valley, near Toronto, on May 22, 1915, I took a very peculiar specimen of the Scarlet Tanager. It proved to be a female and its plumage is so odd that I have endeavoured to describe the specimen. Dr. Jonathan Dwight stated, after seeing it, that it was unique, and examination of a large series in Mr. J. H. Fleming's collection showed nothing like it.

It is in my collection, No. 1293.

Ridgway's color standards, 1912, are used in the following description: The under parts are diffused capucine yellow, pinard yellow and buffy olive. The throat, breast and belly are chiefly a mixture of the two yellows, becoming buffy olive on the flanks. The under tail coverts are clear capucine yellow, becoming pinard yellow at the tips. The under wing coverts are white.

The wings and tail are clove brown, edged with citrine above. The upper tail coverts show traces of xanthine orange and the rest of the upper parts are citrine with diffused xanthine orange, becoming bright again on the head.

Stelgidopteryx serripennis. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW.—The only records for the Rough-winged Swallow at Toronto are given by J. H. Fleming ('The Auk', Vol. XXIV, p. 82). He has a male, taken at Etobicoke, on May 16, 1900, and found a pair at Black Creek, on June 12, 1906.

On May 21, 1915, to the north of East Toronto, I noticed a pair near a small pond. I obtained a male, No. 1306, and a female, No. 1305, and both are now in my collection.

On May 16, 1916, I found another pair near the same place and collected them. One was a male and the other a female. These two birds were presented to the Provincial Museum, Gould Street, Toronto, and are now in the Museum collection.

As this bird is apparently establishing itself further east on the north shore of Lake Ontario, the relative location of the above records is of interest. Etobicoke is thirteen miles west of the point where my four birds were taken, and Black Creek is nine miles west of the same point.

I might say that I was actively engaged in observing and collecting birds to the east of Toronto where the 1915 and 1916 specimens were taken, during the years 1904-1908, and did much work during 1914, but no Rough-winged Swallows were seen. One must assume that none were present and that they arrived to the east of Toronto, in 1915; thus, these two occurrences are, at the present time, the most easterly recorded for Ontario.

Vermivora peregrina. TENNESSEE WARBLER.—A male Tennessee Warbler in my collection, No. 1340, which I took near Toronto on May 13, 1915, is peculiar in that several feathers of the crown have concealed chestnut brown centres of the same color as those in the crown-patch of the Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora rubricapilla*). Thirty-three specimens in the collection of Mr. J. H. Fleming, taken from most parts of the bird's range, have been examined for similar concealed crown-patches, but none were found. Dr. Jonathan Dwight has pronounced this specimen unique.

Dendroica discolor. PRAIRIE WARBLER.—On May 11, 1916, I found a Prairie Warbler in a small patch of woods that bordered the Scarborough Cliffs at a point a half mile east of the city limits. This specimen, which is a male, is now in my collection, No. 1392. Mr. J. H. Fleming records two previous Toronto records ('The Auk', Vol. XXIV, 84).

Seiurus noveboracensis notabilis. GRINNELL'S WATER-THRUSH.—On May 21, 1915, I took a Water-Thrush at Toronto, which Dr. Jonathan Dwight has identified as this species, although not typical. The specimen is in my collection, No. 1398. Mr. J. H. Fleming in 'The Auk' (Vol. XXV, 486-487) records three previous Ontario specimens.